



**SENATOR BOB DUFF**  
Norwalk & Darien  
*Assistant Majority Leader*

*Chair*  
Banks  
*Vice Chair*  
Transportation • Energy & Technology  
*Member*  
Appropriations  
*Appropriations Subcommittee Chair*  
Results-Based Accountability  
Conservation & Development

June 4, 2009

The Honorable Joseph F. Marie  
Department of Transportation  
2800 Berlin Turnpike  
Newington, CT 06131-7546

Dear Commissioner Marie:

I write to you today to express the concerns of several of my constituents regarding visibility and safety issues on our roadways.

While I share Governor M. Jodi Rell's belief that the state must take decisive actions in order to cut costs in these difficult economic times, I feel that I must bring to your attention a situation apparently brought about by a cost cutting measure that I feel poses a hazard to motorists.

Executive Directive No. 4 ordered all state agency heads to reduce travel and cut fuel consumption. This directive has led to a reduction in the Department of Transportation's regular schedule of mowing on our highways, most notably on entrance and exit ramps. However, the schedule has been so greatly reduced that, in some areas, grass is growing very tall and obstructing visibility.

I personally contacted your department in regards to Exit 16 off of Interstate 95 in Norwalk, as the grass had not been mowed and was at least two feet high. To the department's credit, it was extremely responsive and the grass was cut in time for the Memorial Day holiday; prior to that, however, line of sight on the ramp was greatly obstructed and navigation of the ramp was difficult.

I humbly request that you discuss this issue with Governor Rell and department staff and consider ways that the department can reduce its fuel consumption while still maintaining a mowing schedule that keeps the roadside grasses safe.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this request, and I look forward to your response to this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Duff".

Bob Duff  
State Senator

Cc: The Honorable M. Jodi Rell